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SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

FOR THE YEAR

1945

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SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEAR ENDING 31st.DECEMBER 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Sidmouth Urban District Council.

Mr.Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Public Health of the Urban District for the year ending 31st.December 1945.

The report conforms as closely as possible with the requirements laid down in the Ministry of Health circulars 10/44 of the 15th.February 1944 and 49/45 of the 19th.March 1945.

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	11242 acres.
Number of inhabited houses	2995
Rateable value	£95,438
Sum represented by penny rate..	£391. 3. 6d.
Population...	9,365

Vital Statistics.

		Total	Male	Female.
Live Births	Legitimate	95	56	39
	Illegitimate	17	8	9

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population = 11.95

		Total	Male	Female.
Still Births	Legitimate	6	5	1
	Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate of still births per 1,000 total (live and still) births = 50.84

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths.	160	67	93

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population = 18.04

Deaths from puerperal causes = Nil.

		Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths of infants under 1 yr. of age.	Legitimate	4	1	3
	Illegitimate	2	-	2

Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births. = 53.57

Death rateof legitimate infants per 1,000 live births. = 35.71

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	27
Deaths from Measles " "	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	One

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) **Council Officials.** **Health Department.**

Medical Officer:	E.L.Perry, D.S.O. D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector:	Stanley T.Chard, M.S.I.A.

Nursing Services:

Queen's Nurse:	Miss E.Salaman, S.R.N.
District Nurses:	Miss L.Pocock, S.R.N. S.C.N.
	Miss N.D.Smith, C.M.B.

(b) (i) Laboratory Facilities. These are provided by the Devon County Council Laboratory.

(ii) Ambulance Facilities. There is an excellent and adequate ambulance service provided by the Sidmouth Division of the St.John's Ambulance Brigade, which possesses a motor ambulance.

(iii) Nursing in the Home, Clinic and Hospitals. The Queen's Nurse and District Nurses attend to cases requiring nursing in their own homes. These nurses also attend the Child Welfare Clinics and provide ante-natal services.

The up-to-date local hospital, the Victoria Cottage Hospital, provides facilities for every type of case requiring hospital treatment. It is affiliated to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Infectious cases are by arrangement with the City of Exeter admitted to the Whipton Isolation Hospital.

(iv) Maternity. During recent years pressure on housing accommodation and social changes which are taking place make it increasingly difficult for maternity cases to be confined in their own homes. This applies to all classes of the residential and visiting population. It has been during the year under report a great advantage in this respect that the Devon County Council still continue to maintain a temporary maternity home, first in Long Orchard and later at The Grove, two houses suitable for the purpose.

The Victoria Cottage Hospital provides four maternity beds, but the presence of these in a cottage hospital which has a total of twenty-seven beds is open to question. From time to time there must be septic surgical cases in the general beds of the hospital.

The provision of a permanent maternity home in Sidmouth itself is badly needed. Sidmouth as a health resort has always attracted a high class of medical practitioner and it seems anomalous where such medical skill is available that maternity cases should be sent outside the town.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) Water. The water supply has been adequately chlorinated throughout the year with satisfactory results.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage. No alteration to report.

2. Rivers and Streams.

No alteration to report.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

The arrangements for cleansing provided under the A.R.P. authorities at the depot where the disinfector is housed have proved very useful for dealing with troops from time to time who have been camped in the neighbourhood. The disinfector is shortly to be moved from its present position and it is proposed that at its new site a certain number of showers shall be provided.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

See Sanitary Inspector's tabular statement.

(iv) Shops and Offices.

See Sanitary Inspector's tabular report.

(v) Camping Sites.

(a) The number of sites used for camping purposes during 1945 was 3.

(b) The number of licences in respect of camping sites issued by the local authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act.1936 was 3.

(c) The maximum number of campers resident in the area in any week during 1945 was 35.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

No occasion for action has arisen.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Two small infestations were dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector. In each case the premises were treated with Zaldecide after first easing all skirtings, architraves, picture rails etc., The treatment was successful, as in subsequent visits no further bed bugs were found.

4. Schools.

No change to report.

SECTION D. Housing.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

See Sanitary Inspector's Repprt.

SECTION F. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during 1945 (Excluding Tuberculosis)

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	2	-	-
Diphtheria.	3	2	-
Measles.	259	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever.	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia.	-	-	-

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	-	-
Whooping Cough.	28	-	-
Dysentery.	2	-	-
Chicken Pox.	30	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality 1945.

Age Periods.	New Cases. Respiratory. M.	New Cases. Respiratory. F.	New Cases. Non-Respiratory. M.	New Cases. Non-Respiratory. F.	Deaths. Respiratory. M.	Deaths. Respiratory. F.	Deaths. Non-Respiratory. M.	Deaths. Non-Respiratory. F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
35	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX II

Statistics provided by the Registrar-General.

Total deaths in 1945 - 160

Causes of death.

		M.	F.
8.	Syphilitic diseases.	-	1
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis.	1	-
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus, uterus.	-	1
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum.	1	1
15.	Cancer of breast.	-	4
16.	Cancer of all other sites.	9	11
17.	Diabetes.	-	2
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions.	14	19
19.	Heart Diseases.	17	23
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system.	9	8
21.	Bronchitis.	4	1
22.	Pneumonia.	-	1
23.	Other respiratory diseases.	1	-
24.	Ulcer of stomach & dueodenum.	2	1
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 yrs.	-	1
26.	Appendicitis.	-	1
27.	Other digestive diseases.	1	2
28.	Nephritis.	2	3
31.	Premature birth.	-	2
32.	Congenital debility.	-	2
33.	Suicide.	-	1
36.	All other causes.	6	8
		67	93

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

E.L.PERRY.

Medical Officer of Health.

SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1945.

TABLE I.

VISITS, INTERVIEWS ETC.,

GENERAL SANITATION.	No. of visits.
Water Supply	68
Drainage	165
Tents, vans and sheds	10
Factories.	10
Accumulations & deposits.....	4
Rats & Mice.	195
Dustbins.	6
Animals improperly kept.	1
Interviews and appointments	102
Miscellaneous.	82
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.	
Enquiries in cases of I.D.	12
Visits re disinfection	18
Visits (other diseases)	8
COWSHEDS, MILK SHOPS & DAIRIES.	
Visits to cowsheds.....	121
Visits to dairies & milk shops	29
FOOD SHOPS & SLAUGHTERHOUSES.	
Visits to food shops.....	22
Visits to slaughterhouses.....	2
HOUSING.	
Visits under Housing & Public Health Acts	26
Visits re verminous premises.....	6
Miscellaneous housing visits (including change of tenancy of Council House)	37

TABLE II

Complaints received.	47
Nuisances abated.	34
NOTICES SERVED.	
Statutory Notices served	1
Statutory Notices complied with	1
DRAINAGE.	
No.of complete new house drainage systems.	1
No.of house drainage systems repaired, relaid or extended.	45
No.of new W.C.'s.	8
No.of old closets replaced with new.	2

DISINFECTION.

No. of premises disinfected after I.D.	5
" " " " " T.B.	2
" " " " " other diseases.	14
Bedding or clothing disinfected in steam disinfector after I.D.	6
" " " " T.B.	2
" " " " other diseases.	96

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following amounts of unsound food were condemned and voluntarily surrendered for either destruction or salvage.

Meat & Meat products. -	86 tins. 30 lbs. galatine. 18 lbs. pork pies. 24 lbs. sausages. 30 lbs. brawn. 15 lbs. bacon. 3½ lbs. lard.
Fruit & vegetable products -	124 tins. 24 lbs. prunes. 40 lbs. dates.
Fish & fish products.	102 tins. 4 stones cod.
Milk.	23 tins.

Also:- 1056 products of various pudding & cake mixtures.

9 lbs. cheese.
9 packets cereals.

MILK SAMPLES.	Passed.	Failed.	Total.
Samples taken for bacteriological test. (methylene blue)	59	25	84
Heat treated samples. (phosphatase test)	14	5	19
Samples taken for T.B.	18	Nil.	18
Inconclusive.	-	-	1
	91	30	122

HOUSING SUMMARY.

	Demolished.	Closed.	Reconditioned.	Total.
Houses dealt with previous to this year.	62	10	61	133
Houses dealt with during 1945.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Clearance areas.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Individual houses.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Houses reconditioned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total.	62	10	61	133

I am, your obedient Servant,
S.T.CHARD.
Sanitary Inspector.